

## **AGENDA ITEM IX B**

### **REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER**

#### **ELECTRONIC ARTICULATION PROJECT**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Act 151 of the First Extra Extraordinary Session of the 1998 Legislature requires the Board of Regents to “provide for the implementation of a computer based system of articulation assessment that is accessible to all students” by the fall term of 2002. Models for such a system were first sought nationally, but Board of Regents staff concluded on the basis of cost and other restrictions that it was unlikely that any of these other systems would be particularly useful. Staff attention then turned to the transfer course evaluation system at Louisiana State University in hopes that the design of that system might serve as a basis from which to design a larger application for statewide use. In November, 1999, Regents’ staff contracted with LSU for a pilot project to determine the feasibility of this idea.

##### **PILOT PROJECT AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Regents’ contract with LSU Computing Services covered a six-month period (March – August, 2000) at a cost of \$59,982.50. The scope of work included the following tasks:

1. Create database tables to store courses from any state institution and their equivalencies at other state institutions.
2. Develop programs to allow institutions to load course articulation information.
3. Develop a website where students can search for equivalency information by course taken, course in which credit is needed, department taken, and department in which credit is needed.
4. Load database tables with established general education course information.
5. Educate and train representatives from state institutions on the use of the system.
6. Document all policies and procedures related to articulation solutions developed during the pilot project.

These tasks have been completed, as agreed, by August 31, 2000. Over 23,000 course equivalencies among the state’s twenty-two state institutions have been made available for viewing at <http://test003.lsu.edu/Articulation.nsf/OpenDatabase>. There has been great enthusiasm expressed at each of the database’s demonstrations. The staff would like to commend LSU Computing Services for designing a database application that promises to be equal to the complexity of course articulation agreements statewide.

### **FUTURE ACTIVITY**

The staff is now engaged in discussions with LSU relative to the content and amount of a subsequent contract to extend the pilot system statewide to include all public colleges and universities and establish an ongoing operational system. The staff will keep the Committee and full Board informed of these deliberations as further developments warrant.